SENATE BILL NO. 2346

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR A DISTINCTIVE MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE TAG FOR RETIRED PATROLMEN OF THE MISSISSIPPI HIGHWAY SAFETY PATROL; TO PROVIDE FOR AN ADDITIONAL FEE FOR SUCH TAGS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

SECTION 1. (1) Any owner of a motor vehicle who is a retired member of the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol and who is a resident of this state, upon payment of the road and bridge privilege taxes, ad valorem taxes and registration fees as prescribed by law for private carriers of passengers, pickup trucks and other noncommercial motor vehicles, and upon payment of an additional fee in the amount provided in subsection (3) of this section, shall be issued a distinctive license tag for each motor vehicle registered in his name identifying such person as a retired member of the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol. The distinctive license tags so issued shall be of such color and design as the State Tax Commission may prescribe and shall consist of such letters or numbers, or both, as may be necessary to distinguish each license tag and may, in the discretion of the State Tax Commission, display the county name.

(2) Application for the distinctive license tags authorized by this section shall be made to the county tax collector on forms prescribed by the State Tax Commission. Applicants for such distinctive license tags shall present proof that they are a retired member of the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol by presentation of a signed and notarized affidavit from the Commissioner of Public Safety. The application and the additional fee imposed under subsection (3) of this section, less three
percent (3%) thereof to be retained by the tax collector, shall be
remitted to the State Tax Commission on a monthly basis as
prescribed by the commission. The portion of the additional fee
retained by the tax collector shall be deposited into the county
general fund.

(3) Beginning with any registration year commencing on or
after July 1, 2002, any person applying for a distinctive license
tag under this section shall pay an additional fee in the amount
of Fifty Dollars ($50.00) for each distinctive license tag applied
for under this section which shall be in addition to all other
taxes and fees. The additional fee paid shall be for a period of
time to run concurrent with the vehicle’s established license tag
year. The additional fee is due and payable at the time the
original application is made for a distinctive license tag under
this section and thereafter annually at the time of renewal
registration as long as the owner retains the distinctive license
tag. If the owner does not wish to retain the distinctive license
tag, he must surrender it to the local county tax collector.

(4) The State Tax Commission shall deposit all fees into the
State Treasury on the day collected. At the end of each month,
the State Tax Commission shall certify to the State Treasurer the
total fees collected under this section from the issuance of
distinctive license tags. The State Treasurer shall distribute an
amount equal to Seven Dollars ($7.00) of the additional fees
collected for each such distinctive license tag issued under this
section to the State General Fund, and the remainder of such
additional fees collected shall be distributed by the State
Treasurer to the credit of the special fund created in Section
45-2-1.

(5) A regular license tag must be properly displayed as
required by law until replaced by a distinctive license tag under
this section. The regular license tag must be surrendered to the
tax collector upon issuance of the distinctive license tag under
this section. The tax collector shall issue up to two (2) license
decals for each distinctive license tag issued under this section,
which will expire the same month and year as the regular license
tag.

(6) In the case of loss or theft of a distinctive license
tag issued under this section, the owner may make application and
affidavit for a replacement distinctive license tag as provided by
Section 27-19-37, Mississippi Code of 1972. The fee for a
replacement distinctive license tag shall be Ten Dollars ($10.00).
The tax collector receiving such application and affidavit shall
be entitled to retain and deposit into the county general fund
five percent (5%) of the fee for such replacement license tag and
the remainder shall be distributed in the same manner as funds
from the sale of regular distinctive license tags issued under
this section.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
and after July 1, 2002.